

| <b>Notice of Allowability</b> | Application No.         | Applicant(s)         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
|                               | 10/810,227              | KAWASHIMA, YASHUHIRO |
|                               | Examiner<br>Anh T.N. Vo | Art Unit<br>2861     |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_\_.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-45.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All b)  Some\* c)  None of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 3/26/04 & 7/26/04
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

***REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE***

The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

Claims 1-16 are allowed because none of the prior art references of record teaches an ink-jet printing system comprising a supporting member that is arranged at a position under an ink carriage at the home position to receive the ink carriage when a guiding member is disengaged from the ink carriage at the home position in the combination as claimed.

Claims 17-24 are allowed because none of the prior art references of record teaches a method of manufacturing an ink-jet printing system comprising a step of installing a supporting member that is arranged at a position under an ink carriage at the home position to receive the ink carriage when a guiding member is disengaged from the ink carriage at the home position in the combination as claimed.

Claims 25-27 are allowed because none of the prior art references of record teaches an ink-jet printing system comprising a sealing unit which integrally includes a frame having a supporting member that is arranged at a position under an ink carriage at the home position to receive the ink carriage when a guiding member is disengaged from the ink carriage at the home position; and a sealing member configured to be lifted to seal an ink-jet print head and movably mounted to the frame at a position under the ink carriage at the home position with a predetermined gap from the ink-jet print head greater than another predetermined gap between the ink carriage and a horizontal surface of the supporting member contacting the ink carriage in the combination as claimed.

Claims 28-43 are allowed because none of the prior art references of record teaches an image forming apparatus comprising a supporting member that is arranged at a position under an ink carriage at the home position to receive the ink carriage when a guiding member is disengaged from the ink carriage at the home position in the combination as claimed.

Claims 44-45 are allowed because none of the prior art references of record teaches an image forming apparatus comprising a sealing unit which integrally includes a frame having a supporting member that is arranged at a position under an ink carriage at the home position to receive the ink carriage when a guiding member is disengaged from the ink carriage at the home position; and a sealing member configured to be lifted to seal an ink-jet print head and movably mounted to the frame at a position under the ink carriage at the home position with a predetermined gap from the ink-jet print head greater than another predetermined gap between the ink carriage and a horizontal surface of the supporting member contacting the ink carriage in the combination as claimed.

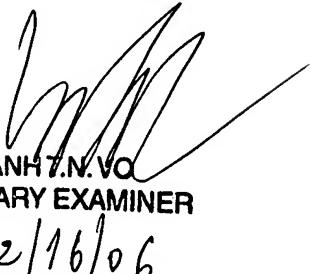
***Citation of Pertinent Prior Art***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art references (US Pat. 5,883,647; US Pat. 6,010,204) cited in the PTO 892 form show an ink jet printer that is deemed to be relevant to the present invention. These references should be reviewed.

***CONCLUSION***

Any comments considered necessarily by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Anh Vo whose telephone number is (571) 272-2262. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday from 9:30 A.M. to 7:30 P.M.. The fax number of this Group 2800 is (571) 273-8300.



ANH T.N. VO  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
2/16/06